ANS Medals - Paul Revere 1925

MEDAL COMMEMORATING THE PAUL REVERE
SESQUI-CENTENNIAL
MCMXXV

DESIGNED BY ANTHONY DE FRANCISCI.

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The year 1925 is the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and many of the events connected with that beginning offer great opportunities for medallic commemoration. The Ride of Paul Revere is particularly deserving of such commemoration. So far as we have been able to learn, no medal with a satisfactory likeness of Paul Revere has ever been struck, and this has been one factor in the selection of this subject.

There is no available portrait of Paul Revere showing him as he was in 1775, when he took the memorable ride. Likenesses by Gilbert Stuart and by St. Memin are known, and these were the only aids which the artist had, and both show the patriot in advanced years. His portrait in profile occupies the obverse of our medal with the inscription PAUL REVERE and the years of his birth and death, 1735-1818. Below, in parallel lines, we read PATRIOT, SILVERSMITH - SOLDIER, ENGRAVER. Beneath, a sword and a silver bowl are entwined with a fillet. The whole is enclosed by a cable border. It is worthy of note that the silver piece—a sugar-bowl—was modelled from one bearing Paul Revere's mark or stamp. It is now in the collection of the Hon. A. T. Clearwater, to whom our thanks are due for having permitted its reproduction.

The reverse concerns itself with the ride which Longfellow immortalized, although, according to Justin Winsor, he "paid little attention to exactness of fact". The artist has represented him awaiting the lantern signal,

> "One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
> And I on the opposite shore will be,
> Ready to ride and spread the alarm
> Through every Middlesex village and farm,
> For the country folk to be up and to arm."

The inscription reads PAUL REVERE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL, 1925. In the exergue are the initials and seal of the American Numismatic Society. The artist's initials, in small letters, appear just below the exergual line.

Your Committee counts itself very fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. Anthony de Francisci for the making of this medal. He is well known as the designer of the beautiful Peace Dollar and of the Maine Centennial Half-dollar, and of several successful medals as well. At his suggestion, a radical departure in the form of our medal was agreed upon—the rounded edge—an element which contributes in no small degree to the attractiveness of the result. It is also of interest that the reverse was first modelled in the exact size of the medal itself. It was then enlarged and again reduced after having been retouched, this course having been taken in order to eliminate the pantographic effect of the reducing machine. The obverse was modelled on a scale of only three diameters.

Several of our leading patriotic and historical organizations have been invited to participate in the subscription. Owing to the present price of silver, and to the weight of the medal, the price of the silver copies will be fifteen dollars each. Bronze copies will be five dollars each. The medals will be numbered. A limited number will be struck and ready for delivery by April 18th, the date of the ride. Orders received after this initial supply is exhausted will require about three weeks before delivery can be made. Subscriptions, accompanied by cheques, should be mailed to

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY,
Broadway at 156th St., New York, N. Y.

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"Ready to ride"
Paul is not ready to mount as he is standing on the wrong side of the horse. I doubt if he made that mistake.
WM. C. Lester

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